

Des Moines Area Community College

## Open SPACE @ DMACC

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Life in the Times of Coronavirus: stories from  
students, staff, & faculty

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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## Life in the Times of Coronavirus

Anonymous (Staff #1)

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April 30, 2020

Like everyone else, I am adjusting to new ways of living during these times. Some adjustments, such as working from home, have been relatively easy. I miss my colleagues, but I can produce most of my work from home in the same way I would from my office, and technology allows me to meet and interact with people easily. The biggest impacts on me are in my life roles as daughter and mom. My parents are in their 80s and live in their own home. My mother is very hard of hearing, so this pandemic has isolated her in new ways since she cannot communicate via video. My siblings and I have been checking in on them frequently through email and phone calls, but have decided it is best for all of us to stay away so that we don't risk infecting them. It weighs on me that I can't take care of the vulnerable people in my life the way I want to. I also have four children that I am concerned about. The two oldest are considered essential workers -- one is a nurse, and the other works for an airline. They are overall healthy but are still putting themselves at risk in order to serve others. Then I have two teenagers (one college, one high school) who have moved to online education. Many people say "Oh, this generation is savvy with technology," which is true, but being able to utilize technology does not make moving from 100% face to face education to 100% online learning an easy task. Education to them has always meant shared experiences, hands on activities, and face to face communication. And so much of education at their age is about exposure to new people and new ideas, along with becoming independent. I am not a person who lives in the past, but I do find myself wanting to give my children the same types of experiences that meant so much to me when I was growing up. My four years at a large state university shaped the person I am today. How will young people today build those same relationships? Experience the ups and downs of being independent? Try something completely new in a relatively safe environment? We can find a way to do all of this, I am sure, but this all happened so quickly that we aren't there yet and young people are losing out. I've lived a life full of great experiences, so sitting at home does not have the same impact on me. I feel for all young people and hope that we find a way to get them connected again to all the amazing experiences life has to offer.

DMACC Staff #1